

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-12

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-----003148 100414Z /64

P R 100304Z DEC 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8485

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSU KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, XF

SBUJECT: UNGA: SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE - QUESTION
OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

1. CONGRESSMAN WHALEN DELIVERED U.S. STATEMENT IN
SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON DECEMBER 9 DURING
DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.
STATEMENT IS TRANSMITTED IN PARAGRAPH 2.QUOTE

STATEMENT BY, CONGRESSMAN CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR.,
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US REPRESENTATIVE IN THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE, ON
THE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, DECEMBER 9, 1977

THE UNITED STATES HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE DELIBERA-
TIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND OF
THE WORKING GROUP DURING THE PAST YEAR, OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE
WORKED WITH OUR FOLLOW PARTICIPANTS TOWARD A DELINEATION OF GUIDE-

LINES FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS WHICH WOULD REFLECT A BROAD CONSENSUS OF VIEWS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS. THE DIFFERENCES AMONG US HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY NARROWED AND IT NOW SEEMS TO US THAT AN AGREEMENT IS ATTAINABLE, GIVEN SOME ADDITIONAL TIME FOR NEGOTIATION OF THE REMAINING POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT,

AS WE DRAW CLOSER TO OUR GOAL, HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO CONTEND WITH A PERSISTENT AMBIVALENCE ON THE PART OF MANY GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES HERE AS TO THE UNDERLYING RATIONALE OF OUR LABORS. THIS IS DUE IN PART TO FRUSTRATION AT THE SLOW PACE OF DIFFICULT AND PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS. BEYOND THIS, THE EXISTING PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUE TO FULFILL THEIR VITAL MANDATES REGARDLESS OF OUR DEBATES IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. BUSY MEN OF A PRACTICAL FRAME OF MIND MIGHT REASONABLY TAKE THE POSITION THAT TODAY'S PROBLEMS ARE SUFFICIENT UNTO THEMSELVES; TOMORROW'S PROBLEMS WILL BE TACKLED TOMORROW. UNLESS WE ARE CONVINCED IN OUR OWN MINDS THAT OUR WORK IS USEFUL, WE WILL LACK THE INCENTIVE AND THE WILL TO PRESS ON THROUGH THE REMAINING DISAGREEMENTS TO REACH A FINAL ACCORD.

LET US, THEN STEP BACK FOR A MOMENT IN AN ATTEMPT TO PUT OUR WORK IN A BROAD PERSPECTIVE. IT IS HARDLY ACCIDENTAL THAT THE FIRST PURPOSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS DEFINED IN THE FIRST LINES OF ARTICLE I OF THE CHARTER, "TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, AND TO THAT END: TO TAKE EFFECTIVE COLLECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION AND REMOVAL OF THREATS TO THE PEACE,..." UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FOUNDERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONSIDERED THAT THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE, AND THAT THE RATHER ELABORATE ARRANGEMENTS SET OUT FOR THIS PURPOSE IN CHAPTER VII HOPEFULLY WOULD ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THAT MISSION.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST THIRTY YEARS HAD TEMPERED THE INITIAL SHORT-LIVED OPTIMISM REGARDING THE POTENTIAL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION IN THE AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WAS BORN OUT OF A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE WITH A TASK WHICH AT THE TIME SEEMED TO MANY NEARLY ON THE IMPOSSIBLE.

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OUR CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN DRAWING CLOSER TO AN AGREED SET OF GUIDELINES REFLECTS, WE BELIEVE, BOTH THE PERSISTENT ATTRACTION OF THE IDEAL OF COLLECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE, AS WELL AS THE RENEWED PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE POTENTIAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING GIVEN US BY THE SUCCESS OF UNEF AND UNDOF IN RECENT YEARS. AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST IS CONCERNED, CLEARLY A CONSENSUS ALREADY EXISTS, AND OUR WORK HAS ACCORDINGLY BEEN MADE MUCH EASIER SINCE WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION OF BUILDING ON A FRESH AND FIRM FOUNDATION OF EXPERIENCE AND SOLID ACHIEVEMENT.

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THE AGREEMENT TOWARD WHICH WE ARE WORKING WOULD HAVE BOTH POLITICAL AND PRACITCAL SIGNIFICANCE. LOOKING AHEAD WE CAN ALL IDENTIFY AREAS OF TENSION AND POTENTIAL CONFLICT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE GLOBE WHERE AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE COULD AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE PROVE USEFUL. WE NEED TO PREPARE OURSELVES POLITICALLY SO THAT THE SECURIYT COUNCIL, IN SOME FUTURE CRISIS SITUATION, NEED NOT WASTE TIME DEBATING FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES RELATING TO POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO A SITUATION THREATENING THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND THEORETICAL GUIDELINES TO TAKE PRACTICAL MEASURES SO THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO TAP TRAINED AND IDENTIFIED

PEACEKEEPING RESOURCES WHEN THE NEED ARISES. DRAWING ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS TO EXISTING FORCES, THE WORKING GROUP HAS ALREADY BEGUN THIS LATTER TASK OF DELINEATING THE PRACITICAL MEASURES REQUIRED. THE WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE DELEGATIONS OF AUSTRIA, CANADA, DENMARK, FINLAND, ITALY, AND SWEDEN PROVIDES A HIGHLY USEFUL STARTING POINT FOR FURTHER FRUITFUL DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER IN THE WORKING GROUP.

AS WE APPROACH OUR WORK IN 1978, THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE A POINT WHICH WE MADE BEFORE, NAMELY THAT THE GUIDE LINES ON WHICH WE ARE WORKING MUST BE CONSIDERED AS AN INTEGRAL UNIT. WE DO NOT THINK IT IS PRACTICAL TO PICK OT ONE OR ANOTHER PRINCIPLE BEFORE AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON THE GUIDELINES AS A WHOLE.

WHILE THE ULTIMATE RESULTS REMAIN UNCERTAIN, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD PERSEVERE. THIS IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HARD WORK; THERE IS NO SHORTCUT ON CONSENSUS. WE HOPE THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING GROUP WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ITS PRESENT BROAD MANDATE THROUGH THE COMING YEAR, THE UNITED STATES WILL COOPERATE FULLY IN SUCH AN EFFORT. IMPORTANT PROGRESS CAN CONTINUE TO BE MADE. UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009